

Hey ClubE!

I MISS you! Even though we are not gathering together in our room, we are still a community. Let's accomplish our 3 goals together this morning. Let's get started!

1. Watch my [short video](#) & introduction to the lesson today.
2. Sharing time. Our question today: What is something you can't see but you know is there (love, etc.).
3. Read the story together as a family (or listen to me read it [here](#)) & go through the discussion questions to talk about what you've learned.
4. Pray together as a family.
5. Do a reflection activity

If you have questions or just want to share your learning, you can email me cas66852@gmail.com or text/call at 612-310-2363

Storytime!

Hey, friends! I'm so happy to be here to talk to you about faith. Faith is so important! Faith changes the way we live our lives, the way we think about ourselves, the way we think about God, and the way we treat others. Our faith is sort of like binoculars that we can look through to see everything in our life. It helps us to make sense of things and know what to do when things get hard. Our faith reminds us that we can trust God no matter what.

Listen to these words from chapter 11 of the book of Hebrews, in the New Testament. Hebrews 11:1-2 (NIRV), "Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see."

You see, faith is all about believing in things that you CAN'T see because of what you CAN see. We can't see God, but we CAN read about people who came before us who followed God. These were men and women who faced tough times, just like you and I do. People who were hurting, scared, and sometimes overwhelmed. But they chose to follow God. They chose to trust His promise that He would one day send a Rescuer. That Rescuer was Jesus.

The writer of the book of Hebrews reminds us about some of these people who we've met so far in God's Big Story—people like Noah, and Abraham. Take Abraham, for example. Abraham was old—REALLY old. It didn't seem like he and his wife Sarah would ever have any kids. But then God stepped in with a promise. God told Abraham to leave his country and his people, to leave his family and to go to the land that God would show him. God promised him that all of the nations of the earth would be blessed because of Abraham. You see, God was planning to send His Rescuer, who would come from Abraham's family. Abraham had God's promise, but he couldn't fully see the way God's promise would come true. Still, Abraham had the faith to trust God. He left his home and his people. He followed God's call. Eventually,

Abraham's son, Isaac, his grandson, Jacob, and his great-grandson, Joseph, all chose to put their faith in God. Just like Abraham, they believed that God keeps His promises.

Another great example is Moses. Like Abraham, Moses was called by God to do something rather extraordinary, something that he didn't feel like he was ready to do. And in the moment, he couldn't really see how it would all work out. But just like Abraham, Moses chose to put his faith in God. See, Moses was an Israelite, one of God's people, but he had been raised in Pharaoh's palace. Pharaoh was the leader of Egypt, and he had forced the Israelite people to work as slaves. One day, God called to Moses from a burning bush and told Moses to lead His people out of slavery. Moses wasn't sure he was the man for the job, but in the end, he chose to stand with his own people against Pharaoh. Sure enough, God used Moses to lead His people to freedom. And that's not all! When you read the book of Hebrews, you discover a huge list of people who followed God by faith. The list goes on so long that the writer eventually stops naming them all!

One name that we can't forget to mention is Israel's greatest king, King David. David knew that God had chosen him to be the king of God's people. But years passed, and it hadn't happened, yet. To make matters worse, the current king, King Saul, wanted to KILL him. David spent years of his life on the run from King Saul. That must have been really hard for him. But David put his faith in God. Even though David couldn't totally see how things were going to work out, he chose to trust God. He had faith that God would keep His promise. Eventually, God did, and David became a great king.

None of these people from the Old Testament could see with their eyes how God was going to save His people. Instead, they chose to trust God and believe that He would keep His promises. They believed that God had a greater plan. They all chose FAITH. Listen to how the writer of Hebrews puts it. Hebrews 11:39-40 (NirV) and read, "All these people were praised because they had faith. But none of them received what God had promised. That's because God had planned something better for us."

Yes, God had something better planned for ALL of us. His Big Story has been taking shape all the way from Creation until now. And God DID send His Rescuer at just the right time! He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus showed us what God is like. He even told us that the most important thing we can do is to love God and to love others. Jesus came to earth to show us the way. When Jesus was killed, His friends and followers thought the Story was finished. But God made everything clear when He raised Jesus back to life! Now, we can trust that anyone who believes and follows Jesus has the promise of eternal life. THAT'S what it means to have faith. We can believe and put our faith in Jesus, even though we've never seen Him with our own eyes.

The early followers of Jesus, like Peter and John, showed us what faith looks like. They saw Jesus teach and heal. They saw Him after God raised Him back to life. Eventually, Jesus returned to heaven and they couldn't see Him anymore. But they didn't stop believing. They continued to follow Jesus. They continued to live by FAITH.

These early Christians believed in what they couldn't see. They knew they were part of God's Big Story, even though they couldn't see the ending where God will make everything right. We can choose to believe just like they did. We can believe like the people in the Old Testament did. We can follow Jesus even though we can't see Him. We can choose FAITH.

Let's talk about it!

- Finish this sentence: Faith is _____.
- What are some people (either in the story today, or others that you know) that have shown faith?
- Do you ever get frustrated with the fact that you just don't know (or can see) the answers? I know I do. Why do you think we don't have all the answers?
- What DO we know the answers to? How can we find the answers?
- We need to be LISTENING and LEARNING to God to know the answers! How are you going to be practicing listening and learning this week?

Pray

Dear God, thank You for giving us so many examples of people all throughout history who chose to put their faith in You. They couldn't always see how it would all work out. But they chose to trust You. Thank You for reminding us today that we can trust in You and in Your promises even though we don't see how they're going to work out. Help us to remember when it's hard, when we feel frustrated or afraid, that we can trust You and put our faith in You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name, amen.

Game time!

HIDDEN

Just because you couldn't see the hidden objects, didn't mean they weren't there! You now know that they exist because you found them!

WHAT YOU NEED: Objects, lists of objects (random, find them around your house), timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Hide different objects around the room
 - If you have more than one person in your family, you can divide the into two teams
- Whoever finds the most objects win!
- Give each team a list of the hidden items and set a timer to your desired time.
- When either time runs out or all of the items have been found, count to see which team found the most. Declare that team the winner!

FAN VERSE

According to our memory verse, faith is trusting that something will happen even though we can't see it happening, yet. Just because we can't see something doesn't mean it isn't real. We can't see the wind, or touch the wind, or taste the wind. We can only hear it, and feel it. Yet, no one doubts that the wind exists. In many ways, faith is like the wind; we can't see faith or touch faith, or taste faith. We can only hear it, and sometimes we feel it—all through the stories of those who came before us. When you know how Jesus has affected others' lives, you can see how He can work in your life, too! You can know Jesus even though you've never seen Him.

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, markers, scissors, small pieces of paper, popsicle sticks, and decorating supplies

WHAT YOU DO: Look up Hebrews 11:1

- Say the verse together several times.
- Then, get a piece of paper
- Color the verse and decorate it.
- When you're finished: watch this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bXcblhghY>
- Take a popsicle stick and follow instructions.
- You have a fan and a reminder of God's promises!